ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Completion of projects by All India Radio

†*101. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

SHRI S. AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of AIR Stations in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the number of projects that have been pending for completion by All India Radio in Tamil Nadu as on date and what is the number of new AIR stations to be set up in the State;

(c) what is the latest position of the following projects: Madras 50 KW SW transmitter; Madras 2x10 KW MW transmitter; and Madras Multi-track recording and stereo transmitter; and

(d) by when these are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) At present, six radio stations are functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) As on date, 10 projects of different types, of All India Radio are at various stages of completion. No new radio station has been planned for the State of Tamil Nadu in the current financial year.

(c) and (d) 2x10 KW MW Transmitter at Madras is technically ready while the work at 50 KW SW transmitter and multi-track recording and stereo transmitter is in progress. All the three projects are envisaged to be completed during 1993-94.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Rajan Chellappa.

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: According to your Annual Report, broadcast stations at Ootacamund and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu are supposed to have been completed by March, 1993 and so also the works in Madras and Tiruchirappalli Stations. So far, nothing has been done. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Ministry to complete these projects: how much amount has been allocated in this year and when they are going to be commissioned. Is there any proposal to upgrade the Madurai station so as to increase the viewership in rural areas? When will the Madurai 2x10 KW MW transmitter be put into use? ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, as regards the second question, it will be in the financial year 1993-94. ... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister answer now.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Regarding the second part of the question—when it will be completed, I just read it out from the statement 'in the financial year 1993-94'. The equipment is not produced by the I&B Ministy or by the AIR. We have to get the equipment from various firms. That might have taken some time. There is delay. So it will be completed in the financial year 1993-94. As far as how much amount has been spent on Ootacamund is concerned, this year, Sir, it is Rs. 10.80 lakhs and for Tuticorin it is Rs. 5 lakhs.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The delay is caused want only for Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I beg your pardon.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The delay is deliberately, want only done for Tamil Nadu only.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Not at all. Not with you there.

As far as Madurai is concerned, I have to enquire and then let you know when it is to be completed. This year there is no other proposal because about 5.60 crores worth of work is going on. Till we complete all that, we don't want to take on anything precious at the moment. And at the moment, Sir, there is 98 per cent of the area and population covered. As a result of the Seventh Plan and Eighth Plan, Annual Plan, work is going on. In Tamil Nadu we will have about 99 per cent, both in area and population, to be covered by AIR.

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Sir, the people are forced to witness the programmes of Television because of personal interest taken by the advertisers. Nor has the Tamil Nadu Government under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi supplied televisions to all Panchayat unions, Panchayat villages so that all the village people can witness T.V. programmes more than the AIR. AIR is not in a position to compete with T.V. programmes because of lack of good programmes. I would like to know what steps the Government proposes to take for making AIR near effective like Television not only in news but in programmes also. Is there any purpose with the Government to constitute a committee for this purpose?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the question is on Radio.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you need not answer that.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, as a convention you are not supposed to read out your question. Either it has been given by somebody else from the State Government... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, he is not reading. He is only referring to the papers. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, a Member can refer to his papers. Let him refer. He is only referring and then asking a question. How do you say he is reading? He is not reading. Subramanian Swamy is reading all the time. ...(*Interruptions*)... All the time he is reading the papers. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Austin.

SHRI S. AUSTIN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some of the AIR stations set up in Tamil Nadu are working with very poor, weak transmitters and a large number of people of Tamil Nadu are deprived of the services of AIR. What steps does the Government propose to take to meet the demand of the people of Tamil Nadu? What is the number of new AIR stations the Government proposes to set up in Tamil Nadu during the next two years? I would also like to know: What would be the target for its completion and what would be the estimated cost and capacity? I also want to know about the locations of the new AIR stations. Now, 90 per cent of the TV programmes are in Hindi. The TV is not giving much importance to regional languages. Is there any programme with the Ministry to give importance to regional languages? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: As I mentioned earlier, till now 98 per cent of the Tamil Nadu area and population is covered by the AIR. As a result of the ongoing projects of the Seventh Plan, the Sixth Plan and the Annual Plan, 1992-93 and 1993-94, 99 per cent of the area and population will be covered. Then, he wanted to know about the locations. Sir, What we have now is, Coimbatore has 10 KW MW transmitter, Madras has 200 KW MW transmitter, 1 KW MW (transmitter), 2.5 KW MW (transmitter), 10 KW SW (transmitter), 100 KW SW (transmitter), 3 KW FM (transmitter). In Madurai, there is 10 KW MW

transmitter. This will be completed by the financial year 1994-95. In Nagarcoil, there is 1 KW MW local radio station. In Tirunelveli, there is 10 KW MV station. In Tiruchurapalli, there is 1 KW and 100 KW MW transmitter, Sir, the ongoing programmes of the Seventh Plan are, new radio station at Kodaikanal, 2.5 KW with studio and staff quarters. He wanted to know about the cost. Its cost is Rs. 4.10 crores. Then at Ootacamund, 1 KW MW studio and staff quarters at a cost of Rs. 2.6 crores. At Tuticorin 2x100 KW MW transmitter, Type 1(R) as well as staff quarters at a cost of Rs. 7 crores. Then upgradation of 2.5 KW MW station to 20 KW MW in Madras at a cost of Rs. 1.32 crores and 10 KW SW to 50 KW SW at a cost of Rs. 2.49 crores. Then multitrack recording studio at Madras at a cost of Rs. 1.46 crores. Then 10 KW MW to 2x10 KW MW at Madurai at a cost of Rs. 1.94 crores. Then at Coimbatore, 10 KW MW to 2x10 KW MW at a cost of Rs. 1.52 crores. At Nagarcoil, 1 KW MW to 2x5 KW FM stations at a cost of Rs. 3.9 lakhs. For the Annual Plan 1991-92 exansion of the National Channel is under consideration. Then expersion of the commercial channel at Coimbator 2x5 KW FM transmitter and studios at a cost of Rs. 2.91 crores. This year alone, we will be spending about Rs. 5.63 crores in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. AUSTIN: Sir, he has not replied to the third part of my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have got such an eleborate reply.

SHRI S. AUSTIN: Sir, he did not answer about the TV programmes.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether the Minister will give more time for regional languages or not. What is he doing for the regional languages?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, on the question of regional languages, I would not like to come unprepared. I would like to come prepared to the Parliament beore we start it. I would like to take the Parliament into confidence.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know the balance amount that we have to spend to complete the ongoing projects in Tamil Nadu. Excludiig this year's annual allotment, how much do we have to spend to complete the ongoing projects?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: This year, as I mentioned, Rs. 5.63 crores are being spent as a result of which most of the projects which are going on will be completed in the financial year 1993-94 and this will cover 99 per cent both of population and area. I would like to say 100 per cent but there may be some problems, there may be some obstacles. That is wry I would say 99 per cent.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: What is the balance amount that we have to pay? To complete the ongoing projects, what is the amount that we have to pay?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Rs. 5.63 crores.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: This year's amount is Rs. 5.63 crores. What I asked was, what is the balance amount that has to be spent to complete the ongoing projects?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: This is what I have said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the balance that he has given.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Most of the projects will be ready during this financial year and Rs. 5.63 crores is the allocation.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is about special broadcasts for fishermen. Our fishermen, especially in the southern coasts, are getting into a lot of trouble when the weather is bad. They get lost in the waters and they are being killed and taken away by the Sri Lankan Navy I want to ask the Minister if he will consider special radio programmes, especially about weather, for fishermen. Part (b) of my question is, we now know that large trolleys on the sea are getting information by a satellite about the weather, availability of good fish catch etc. Will the Minister consider daily broadcast from the radio, getting information from the satellite and from other sophisticated sources, to fishermen in every fisring hamlet where radios and transistors are easily available about the availability of good fish catch, daily bulletins about the weather and availability of good fish catch.

SHRI K P. SINGH DEO: It is a very important suggestion, Sir. We will certainly consider if we can tie up an arrangement with the Department of Space and the Department of Science and Technology. I would like to make this service available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Moolchand Meena. Is it about Tamil Nadu?

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि आकाशवाणी प्रसारण केन्द्रों की स्थापना की क्या नीति है ? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि देश के अन्दर विशेष रूप से सन् 1991 से अब तक कितने आकाशवाणी प्रसारण केन्द्रों की स्थापना की स्वीकृति दी गई है और ये आकाशवाणी प्रसारण केन्द्र कब तक पूरे होने की आशा है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this is a large question and is not important.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, there is a lot of clamour with regard to the programmes that are being performed in the T.V. Stations. There the higher-ups divide the programmes into two sections, one about communalism and the other about corrupt practices. In the first one, preference is given to communalism and in the second, the highest bidder gets it. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of it and what steps he is going to take with regard to eradication of communalism as well as the highest bidding.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: The question is about radio and the points he has raised are about T.V. I shall examine it.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now my hon. friend has said trat almost all radio stotions put up in Tamil Nadu are having very weak and low transmitters. We are not in a position to hear the news as well as the programmes which are being broadcast from the Tamil Nadu radio stations including Madurai, Trichi, Madras. I am living very near to Madurai station and I could not hear anything from the Madurai station but I am able to hear the news from Ceylon. I can hear the news from Ceylon of Sri Lanka Radio. They have captured all the advertisements from Tamil Nadu. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the transmitters would be strengthened. Fortunately or unfortunately, we the Tamilians, are living in the neighbouring areas as well as in the capital of the State. We are not in a position to hear the Tamil news in India. ... *(Interruptions)* ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. We have your point.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether he

will take steps to see that the transmitters in Tamil Nadu are strengthened so that the people sitting in Delhi as well as those in the neighbouring States can hear the Tamil news and Tamil songs from Madras or Tiruchy.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Or even in Delhi itself.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: All the local language programmes must be heard... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: After the expansion or upgradation of the various radio transmitters in the State, as a result of the present efforts, is complete, a majority of them will be taken care of. I cannot stop "Radio Ceylon" from being heard here.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: You can strengthen ours.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: As far as his hearing of Tamil Programmes sitting here in Delhi is concerned, wherever possible, we will try to do it... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Also, will any arrangement be made in the Delhi Station for hearing the Tamil news and other important Tamil matters? Once an arrangement was there and now it has been stopped, I think.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: All transmitters should be strengthened and only then we can hear... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I can pass on the next Question. Question No. 102. Mr. Giri Prasad. Not here. Yes, Mr. Guru Das Gupta.

Aids for Modernisation of NTC Mills

*102. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had agreed at a meeting on the 10th June, 1993 to advance 11 crore rupees to the NTC mills in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar to facilitate their revival and to undertake short-term modernisation programmes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fund has not been released as yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Sir, since Mr. G. Venkat Swamy is indisposed, he has requested me to reply and with your permission, I am replying on his behalf. (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In a meeting held on 10th June, 1993, the requirement of additional working capital of the mills under NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd. for six months had been assessed at Rs. 11.00 crores out of which a sum of Rs. 6.40 crores have already been released.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Minister could not come here because he is sick and the NTC also will become sick.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.